

Remarks:

A. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Pending claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,097,455 (Babuka). Applicant respectively traverses the rejection. With regard to Claim 17, Babuka does not teach or suggest fastening straps to back surfaces of adjacent display elements across seams. Instead, Babuka teaches a mask which is affixed to a polymer film layer, not to display elements. Thus claims 17 and 18-20 depending therefrom are patentable over Babuka.

B. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

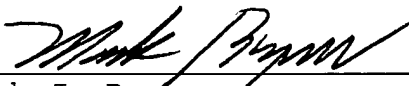
Pending claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Babuka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,862 (Sawai). Neither reference teaches or suggests straps attached to the back surface of display elements along seam lengths. As discussed above, the masks of Babuka are not attached to the back surface of display elements. Nor does Sawai teach or suggest such an arrangement. Accordingly claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 are patentable over the proposed combination.

Pending claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Babuka in view of Sawai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,592. For the same reason discussed above, claim 4 is patentable over the proposed combination.

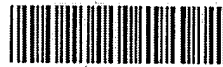
In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark J. Rozman
Registration No. 42,117
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024-1805
(512) 418-9944 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPENDIX

1 17. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:
2 configuring a flat-panel display from an array of display
3 elements, each of the display elements having a front surface
4 that emits light and a back surface that does not substantially
5 emit light;
6 fastening straps to the back surfaces of adjacent display
7 elements across seams between [along the length of seams on said
8 back surfaces of] the adjacent display elements; and
9 redistributing a stress placed on a [said] front surface of
10 [a] the flat-panel display to said straps.